4th March 1961]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 574 asked by Sri T. T. Daniel at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 4th March 1961, page 203 supra.]

A.—(*a*) The following are the various concessions given to Christian Harijans :—

The Harijan welfare Department is giving concessions such as scholarships, school and hostel facilities, midday meals, provision of free house sites, drinking water wells, sanitary amenities, etc., to Harijans entirely from State funds. The converts from Harijans have been classified as 'Other Eligible Communities' by the Harijan Welfare Department and they are eligible for the above concessions given entirely from State funds.

Certain schemes have been formulated for the benefit of Harijans under the Second Five-Year Plan with half grant or full grant from the Government of India such as construction of houses, facilities to develop agriculture and cottage industries and subsidy to technically trained persons to enable them to settle down in trade. The converts from Harijans are not eligible for any of the above concessions given with half grant or full grant from the Government of India in view of the fact that according to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, as subsequently amended, no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu or Sikh religion shall be deemed to be a member of Scheduled Caste.

Full fee concessions.—With effect from the academic year 1957–58 the converts to Christianity from Harijans have been made eligible for full fee concessions in educational institutions on a par with Hindu Harijans.

Admission in colleges and public services.—For the purpose of reservation of seats for admission to colleges and technical institutions and Public Services, Scheduled Caste converts are treated as Backward Classes, provided they are themselves converts.

(*b*) The Government of India do not recognise Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity as Scheduled Castes. Hence, no representation has been made to them in the matter.